

## MSHA Gift Continues Part-time Nursing Program

Mountain States Health Alliance has presented \$450,000 to the VHCC Educational Foundation to continue operating the Part-Time Evening Weekend program currently offered by the Virginia Appalachia Tricollege Nursing Program.

The part-time program allows students to gain an associate degree in nursing while completing classroom and clinical assignments at night and on weekends. The program began with a grant from the Virginia Tobacco Commission to provide an alternative to the traditional nursing program. The Mountain States donation will allow the program to continue through 2013.

"The \$450,000 donation to the Virginia Appalachia Tricollege Nursing Program allows us to grow our own talent right here at home while investing in the educational institutions in our region," said Ann Fleming, Mountain States senior vice president for Virginia Operations. "To recruit outside our region is much more costly, and the people many times do not stay as long as someone who has roots here, family here and appreciates the culture and the opportunity to work here."

Fleming said this donation follows similar investments in Tennessee facilities that have seen the benefits of growing local nursing programs and eliminating expensive contract nursing while reducing turnover at local hospitals.

More than 3,000 nurses have graduated from VATNP since its creation in 1975, and 77 have been graduates of the Evening/Weekend Program.

"The part-time weekend and evening nursing program has been a Godsend for me and my family," said Melissa Barker, a student currently enrolled in the program. "In addition to being a wife and mother, I provide care for my elderly mother-in-law and maintain a part-time job. I am very grateful that this program is allowing me to advance my career while caring for my family."

The Part-Time Evening/Weekend Program offers the same high-quality classroom and clinical training that has always been a part of the Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing

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Photo: Jerry Musick

(Left to Right) VHCC Student Sarah Easterling, who painted the wolf, and Gary Kimbrell, who joined his brother in donating the wolf to VHCC in honor of their late father, Eb Kimbrell.

## Artist, Donor Unveil Wolf

Sarah Easterling wanted her wolf to tell a story. So when the young artist began choosing a paint scheme for the ceramic sculpture as part of an art assignment at Abingdon High School, she decided to focus on the declining population of the animals.

She chose orange to represent fire and gray to represent the dying habitat, then added a tear to the wolf and chose the name "I Know Why Wolves Cry."

"I ended up telling a story about why the wolves aren't here anymore," she said. "The wolf habitat was destroyed by man and the wolves didn't have a home anymore. There is one wolf left and it is so sad because it's all alone."

Sarah's wolf was one of about two dozen chosen by Advance Abingdon, a downtown revitalization effort led by Gary Kimbrell, to help bring visitors to Main Street. Legend has it that Daniel Boone's hunting dogs were attacked by wolves during his journey through the area, giving Abingdon its former name of Wolf Hills. To celebrate this heritage, the sculptures were placed outside various businesses during the summer months.

And when the weather turned colder and the wolves were auctioned off to raise money for Advance Abingdon's ongoing efforts, Kimbrell himself purchased Sarah's wolf. Two days later, he and his brother, Thomas, agreed to donate the sculpture to VHCC in memory of their father, the late Eb Kimbrell.



The campus community recently gathered in the VHCC Library for their first look at the sculpture and to meet both the artist, who is now a VHCC student, and donor. They also learned about Eb Kimbrell, the Pearl Harbor veteran who remained active in a long list of community activities throughout his 87 years. Shortly before his death, Eb Kimbrell toured the wolf display in downtown Abingdon with his great grandchildren.

"He took a sense of pride in this," his son said.

The wolf is now on permanent display in the VHCC Library and is a fitting tribute to a great father who proudly served his country and community, the town's history and to campus pride. VHCC students and employees recently chose Wolves as their campus mascot.

"I'm so proud that my wolf is here," Sarah said. "This is truly a great honor."



VHCC News is produced each month by Anne Dunham of the Office of Institutional Advancement. If you would like to suggest information for the newsletter, please send your ideas to [adunham@vhcc.edu](mailto:adunham@vhcc.edu) or contact her by phone at 276-739-2456. VHCC is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.

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# MSHA

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Program. By adapting the curriculum to fit the needs of those with busy work schedules and family obligations, the program creates a new environment for educating individuals committed to providing high-quality health care to the community, college officials said.

Dr. David Wilkin, VHCC president, said he expects the donation to impact enrollment.

"We are working hard to prepare enough local students to fill the regional need for nurses. This generous investment in the Part-Time Evening/Weekend Nursing Program will increase enrollment, enhance career opportunities and maintain the quality of health care throughout our region," Wilkin said. "We are delighted with the support from Mountain States Health Alliance to provide this flexible alternative to the traditional nursing program."

## VHCC Brings Disney Institute to Abingdon

*Full-day program explores secrets to leadership excellence*

Disney Institute is bringing its renowned professional development program, "Disney's Approach to Leadership Excellence," to Abingdon, Virginia on April 22, 2010. Sponsored locally by Workforce Development and Continuing Education at Virginia Highlands Community College and the VHCC Foundation, the full-day event will give area professionals an opportunity to "experience the business behind the magic."

The program will be held at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center and will give participants new ideas for being more effective leaders and inspiring high-performance teams." This is the first time this program has been held in the Tri Cities in over six years.

"This is a rare opportunity for Southwest Virginia and Tri Cities business professionals to participate in a Disney Institute experience in Abingdon," said Jeff James, vice president for Disney Institute. "It's a day of Disney training that will offer dozens of easy-to-implement, proven ideas that can help transform an organization. The program is as appropriate for project managers and intact work teams as it is for leaders and senior executives."

The full-day "Disney's Approach to Leadership Excellence" program will give participants the chance to explore proven Disney leadership philosophies that encourage values and behaviors that generate results – and are fundamental for organizations to grow and succeed.

"In an era where everyone is competing for business and market share, leadership excellence isn't a luxury, it is mission critical," James said. "This program is made for organizations – large and small – that are looking to build passionate workforce dedicated to delivering products and services that exceed customer expectations."

Program registration is \$425 per person and includes all course materials and meals. For more information or to register, call Workforce Development & Continuing Education at VHCC at (276)-739-2430.

## THE HOWL

A LITERARY & ART REVIEW



VHCC is currently accepting submissions for The Howl, the College's new literary and art review.

Students, faculty, staff, and alumni of VHCC, as well as current and former residents of Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee are invited to submit works of poetry, short fiction, memoir, black and white photography, and black and white artwork. All written work should be submitted via e-mail to [pferguson@vhcc.edu](mailto:pferguson@vhcc.edu) as a Word or rich text attachment. Artwork and photography should be submitted as a JPEG image or delivered to Room 721 of the Learning Resources Center on the VHCC campus.

The deadline for submissions is March 26. Please see The Howl webpage at [www.vhcc.edu/howl](http://www.vhcc.edu/howl) for complete submission and publication details or contact Phil Ferguson at 276-739-2459.

## Retirement Sessions Set for May

The Virginia Retirement System will offer free Retirement Education Seminars (RES) and Group Counseling Sessions (GCS) on the VHCC campus on May 12.

The Retirement Education Seminars provide general retirement information including estate and financial planning. The Group Counseling Sessions are for VRS members planning to retire within the next five years.

Preregistration is required.

For more information and to preregister, go to the VHCC Human Resources web page and click on FYI – Retirement Planning – VRS Retirement Education & Counseling Sessions.

## Haiti Relief Efforts Continue

As the nation of Haiti struggles to recover from the devastating earthquake of Jan. 12, many on the VHCC campus have asked how they can help. Student leaders and club members have joined together to provide these opportunities for you to make a difference in the lives of those impacted by this disaster. Participating clubs include Students in Free Enterprise, the Student Government Association, Rotaract, IMPACT, Law Enforcement Club, Christian Club, Phi Theta Kappa, and the Pre-Pharmacy Club. Together they have come up with three ways you can help.

1. Donate funds to the Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation to assist in rebuilding a Haitian school that was destroyed by the earthquake. Members of the BRCC Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Team were in Haiti when the earthquake hit and have a personal connection with the school. Collection points have been established in the Student Success Center, the VHCC Library and in the Career Center to accept your tax-deductible donations. Please make checks payable to the **BRCC Educational Foundation**, earmarked for the Haiti Relief effort.
2. Donate bottled water, baby wipes and basic medical supplies, including Band-Aids, neosporin, alcohol, surgical gloves, first aid tape, Motrin, Tylenol, peroxide, antifungal ointment, and antibacterial hand gel. Collection boxes will be located throughout campus. All donations will be taken to Safewater Nexus to be sorted and shipped to Haiti.
3. Volunteer to assist Safewater Nexus by transporting or sorting donated items at the non-profit agency's Kingsport warehouse. To schedule a date or get more information, please contact Matt Chambers at [matt@safewaternexus.org](mailto:matt@safewaternexus.org)

Please direct your questions to Michael McBride, Coordinator of Service Learning, at [mmcbride@vhcc.edu](mailto:mmcbride@vhcc.edu) or (276) 739-2575. His office is located in the Career Center, ISC-101.

Dance the night away with the  
Virginia Highlands Community College  
Student Government Association



Friday, March 26 from 8 p.m. - midnight  
Free dance lessons from 7-8 p.m.  
Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center

Dressy Casual  
No jeans or t-shirts please

Advanced tickets are \$8 per person/\$15 per couple  
On sale beginning February 22 in the Student Success Center and  
in the Snack Bar from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 15-26

All tickets are \$10 at the door. Call (276) 739-2434 for more information